

Dr. Bill Stokes, Director NTP Interagency Center for the Evaluation of
Alternative
Toxicological Methods (MD EC-17)
National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences
P.O. Box 12233
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709

Dear Dr. Stokes:

I am writing with regard to the public commentary on non-animal test methods, issued by the Interagency Coordinating Committee on the Validation of Alternative Methods (ICCVAM). I wish to give my complete support for these methods, in the strongest possible terms.

These methods (EPISKIN(tm), EpiDerm(tm) and Rat Skin transcutaneous electrical resistance assay) can totally replace the cruel use of rabbits and other animals in skin corrosion studies (which cause horrendous suffering as chemicals eat through the animals' skin, causing painful and irreversible damage).

Using non-animal testing methods as part of an integrated testing scheme (in which animal tests may be used to confirm the non-animal test results) is simply not enough.

The suffering of animals in these cruel experiments should be eliminated altogether.

Thank you in advance for your attention to these concerns.

Sincerely yours,

Dr. Barbara E. Kurtz